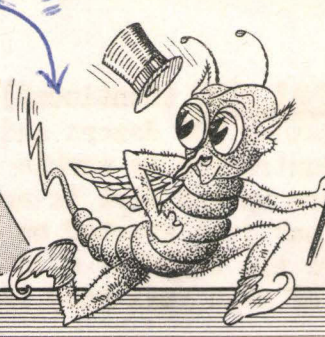
SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS



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REGION ONE | Missoula, Montana | August 6, 1953 | No. 2

KOOTENAI NEWS FLASHES - This forest contains 1.2 billion board feet of spruce with 156 million infested in 1952. This was the largest amount of infested spruce on any forest in the region. So much for background. Now to current action.

The Kootenai's spruce access road program totaling 112.5 miles includes 33.5 miles being constructed by force account by the Forest Service; 58.8 miles already under construction under contract and 20.2 miles being advertised for construction under contract. There are graveling jobs and bridges in addition.

Sylvanite Ranger Station is a little city these days. About 90 BPR men are working on the district. A considerable number make the ranger station their headquarters.

Recent RO visitors to the Graves Creek spruce access road report they were kept busy dodging trucks and eating dust. About 40 trucks hauling to Kalispell mills make two trips per day over this road. The road is so busy during all the daylight hours that the Forest Service plans to recondition and surface part of it at night. Sprinkle wagons run at night on one section of the road. One section is still a dust problem. (Continued on next page.)

SCORE BOARD - INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED

Forest (From N. F. Land)	1952 Flight Year (July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953) Million Board Feet	1953 Flight Year (July 1, 1953 to July 18) Million Board Feet	1953 Flight Year LAST TWO WEEKS (July 19 to August 1) Million Board Feet
Cabinet	0.8	0.2	0.1
Clearwater	0	0	0
Flathead	2.4	0.5	0.4
Kaniksu	6.5	2.3	0.5
Kootenai	57.7	0.8	1.5
Lolo	1.7	0.5	0.6
St. Joe	7.2	1.1	1.0
Subtotal	76.3	5.4	4.1
All Other Ownerships	18.7	2.1	2.3
GRAND TOTALS	95.0	7.5	6.4

KOOTENAI NEWS (Continued)
Altogether 100 dozers and 85 logging trucks are working on the Kootenai Forest. **** The contractor is working on both ends of the Pipe Creek road. **** Pete Creek road is torn up and dirt is moving fast. **** Spread Creek bridge is completed. **** Work has just started on the North Fork of Meadow Creek road. **** Six Neils Company dozers are building a road into the Lost Fork sale of infested spruce. **** Betterment of main Yaak road is about completed except placing crushed rock.

A new scaler shack is being built on the Lower Pipe Creek road. It will be equipped with floodlights for night scaling. Four scalers will work 10 hours per day. Al McGraw, Ralph McAvoy, Gary Skinner, Danny Statler, David Rittersbacher and Wayne Davison have been working on this job. They suggest "hootscaler" as a descriptive name for a scaler on the night shift.

Dozer Operators Lyle Hunter and Floyd Baeth and 25 men have been piling slash at Turner camp. A lot a spruce bark beetles will be burned up in this slash this fall.

Ted Hay, Ray Karr and Max Aiken for the Rexford Ranger Station and Mark Schockneckt and Jack Parrish from the J. Neils Lumber Company helped mark the spruce on the Pinkham sale that will be used in the mill scale study of degrade.

Ray Karr, junior forester at Rexford Ranger Station reports seeing a pair of squirrels busily feeding on spruce bark beetle larvae on Dodge Creek. The squirrels apparently found the larvae palatible because they did a thorough job.

MASON IN REGION - Ira J. Mason, chief of the Division of Timber Management in the Chief's office, was in the region on spruce bark beetle and other matters from July 22 to 31. He spent considerable time on the forests inspecting work on the new spruce access roads and sales. He seemed to be delighted to get the dust of many spruce operations in his eyes. Axel Lindh claims that Pete Hanson picked up more dust than anyone else on these trips.

SPRUCE BOOKLETS OUT SOON - In an exclusive interview for the NEWS, I. V. Anderson stated that the Madison Laboratories booklets about spruce are being printed and can be obtained from his office soon. The booklets include the following: Use of Engelmann Spruce for House Construction; Engelmann Spruce and its Preservative Treatment for Ties and Mine Timbers; Engelmann Spruce for Pulp and Paper Products; and Veneer Cutting and Drying Properties of Engelmann Spruce. By September additional booklets will be available as follows: Air Drying Engelmann Spruce; Kiln Drying Engelmann Spruce; and Mechanical Properties of Engelmann Spruce.

BUDWORM SPRAYING COMPLETED - Aerial spraying to kill the spruce budworm was completed July 21. On the Helena and Deerlodge Forests 117,000 acres were sprayed. Bob Denton of B.E.P.Q. had charge of the entomological work and Frank Blackmer, Fred Mass and several helpers ran the operational phase of the job. Archie Gibson of B.E.P.Q. and A. O. Nousianen from the Forest Service collaborated in the spraying of 16,070 acres on the Nezperce. The Johnson Flying Service had the contract for the spraying.

Barring an accident in which one of the tri-motor Fords struck a group of four steel static cables 134 feet above a powerline killing both the pilot and helper the spraying project ended satisfactorily. A project of this kind is interesting but all were glad when it was finished. Two a.m. is a mite early rising hour day after day.

ENGELMON HOOTPECKER says: Listen to reason! Prevent accidents in August.

LOLO NEWSNEWS - First reports on ratio surveys started July 28 in the Powell District show a 1953 increase of 2.9 to 1.

Four sales recently sold on the Lolo Forest, totaling nineteen million feet, were Dick Creek, Packers Meadow, Lost Park and Pack Creek. The first three went to Tree Farmers, Inc. and the last was split between Steve Russell and the Tree Farmers. All the chances are ready for immediate operation and logs are already coming off the Pack Creek sale.

Kenny Sanders and Doug Murphy of the BPR, Ted Schubert, Bud Moore and John Wilson spent July 28 and 29 walking trails, side hills and canyon bottoms in Papoose Creek and Crooked Fork looking at proposed access road locations. Sixteen miles of road are involved in these two projects.

Henry Bango, consulting forester from Louisiana, visited A.C.M. woods operations in Lolo Creek July 31 to observe logging methods and insect infestation.

Ranger Bud Moore of the Powell District reports that Bill Howard, Francis Schrom, and Frank Lara returned to their home forests in Region Five, Charles Paluso was called in to the supervisor's office and Bob Johnston obtained employment in private industry.

According to Ranger Bud Moore, early June saw the Bureau of Entomology, the Powell District lumberjacks, and the Johnson Flying Service teamed up to get an advance survey of the spruce beetle situation in the Gravey Creek area. Air drop camps were made up of equipment borrowed, begged for, or stolen from the seven ranger districts on the Lolo.

With the advance survey completed and the snow melted, the Clearwater Forest moved in to complete the cruise. The Clearwater crew sparked by Thurman Trosper, immediately claimed discovery rights on the Lolo Forest air drop equipment and arranged to haul the newly found loot to Orofino, Idaho as soon as possible. Bud Moore and the Powell boys immediately challenged the discovery rights. The situation rests with the Clearwater still determined to claim the gear and with all six of the Montana rangers on the Lolo Forest putting the heat on the Powell District to get their gear returned. (Question: Where did Trosper get such training?)

Charles Randall from I&E in the Chief's office visited spruce areas on the Lolo with Steuerwald and Scott.

SHORT TRIP - Ole Johnson, of the Cabinet, and Francis Pixley, of Engineering, boarded a plane at 12:19 p.m. July 31 to fly to Glasgow, Montana to look at road building machinery for spruce access roads. At 12:20 p.m. the same day the trip ended. The plane did not take off as expected. It sheared off four 6x6 posts at the north edge of the flying field and came to rest across a highway. The plane was damaged but the pilot and passengers escaped serious injury except for a few upset stomachs. Jack Hughes did a skillful job in landing the plane. The Johnson Flying Service was efficient and accommodating. They offered to have another plane within ten minutes but the passengers found that they were in no great hurry to go to Glasgow.

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KANIKSU ACTIVITIES - Knox Marshall reports: Diamond Match Company Boulder-Beaver road into spruce is about one-half done, and they are expecting production before the end of August. Main access road through Quartz Creek to the head of Lightning Creek is almost done, spruce production will start before the month is out. Contractor is well started in main Lightning Creek. Contracts are about to be let for Rattle Creek and Porcupine road jobs. Boundary Creek Road betterment job is progressing satisfactorily, although it is difficult to do the necessary rock work and still keep the road open for loggers who are hauling infested spruce out over the road. The surveys on Continental Mountain are approaching the point where the BPR can advertise for construction bids. Surveys in Canuck Creek are just winding up the connection between the operator's road from Canada and the access road from Deer Creek. Myrtle Creek road has been awarded for construction. Logging operations in spruce stands are just now beginning to get into full production.

The Kaniksu also reports that what is now the Diamond Match Company Boulder-Beaver sale was cruised in March from a camp dropped by parachute. Those participating were J. R. Jansson, Priest Lake District ranger; Kenneth Nelson, alternate; J. V. Puckett, dispatcher; and Floyd Cowles, blister rust. George Wright, Bitterroot, and crew located the roads in May from a pack camp. Trap trees were felled under the direction of J. R. Jansson and John Sudnikovich.

SQUIRRELS EAT BEETLES ON KANIKSU - Tom Bolin reports from the Kaniksu that during the week of June 13 while in charge of the Wellington Creek spray camp that he observed pine squirrels taking the bark from infested trees and eating the beetles and larvae, dropping the bark on the snow beneath the trees. He observed this several times. Jim Thomson and Bob Porterfield observed it too. Jim Evenden states that entomologists have known for some time that squirrels, mice and shrews eat bark beetle larvae. Woodpeckers do not have a monopoly.

CHECK OF GRADE RECOVERY FROM DEAD SPRUCE STARTED - This week 75,000 board feet of dead spruce killed by beetle attacks in 1952 from the Pinkham Creek sale will be sawed at Neils' Libby mill. A thorough check will be made of the grade recovery from the dead logs compared to the grade recovery from the same logs had they been green. The original intention was to run green logs through the mill to obtain a comparison of the grade recovery from logs from dead and green trees. This plan had to be abandoned. Examination of the dead and green spruce trees in the woods showed that the beetles did not select trees at random. They tended to attack the larger trees; therefore, it would not be valid to compare the grade recovery from the killed trees with the grade recovery from the green trees that the beetles did not attack.

Selection of the dead spruce to run through the sawmill was made by I. V. Anderson, Jim Evenden, Hanley Morse, and Clarence Brown. It is also planned to mark another lot of dead spruce for further study. Half of these trees will be left standing in the woods. The other half will be logged and stored in a cold deck under typical conditions. Both will be sawed next spring and comparisons of grade recovery made.

TIMES WERE TOUGH - "This project was also made under most difficult conditions. Snow made it necessary to make aerial drops of camps and supplies. One crew traveled from camp to camp for four days before reaching its destination; however, this project was started on June 15 and completed by July 1 as planned." Extract from BEPQ report on beetle surveys in Lochsa River drainage on Clearwater and Lolo Forests.

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1953 POST-FLIGHT SPRUCE BEETLE SURVEYS - In July, the spruce bark beetles probably made their major spread to new trees for 1953. Surveys are already being made to determine the extent of the new damage area by area. These surveys are important because their results will be used in planning the control of the epidemic. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is responsible for the entomological features of all such surveys. Bug hunters from this Bureau are making surveys on over 400,000 acres to measure the change in the amount of infestation in spruce stands known to be epidemic in 1952. National forest crews will make detection surveys on 480,000 acres on the Cabinet, Clearwater, Flathead, Kaniksu, Kootenai, Lolo and St. Joe. Private timber owners are surveying in their ownerships on these forests. These are known as the seven spruce bark beetle forests. They had the epidemic in 1952. Detection surveys will be made on 300,000 acres of spruce on the other forests in Region One. Detection surveys are being made in areas found to be endemic in 1952 or that were not examined at that time.

Sale preparation surveys, also known as operational surveys, will be made by Forest Service crews on about 175,000 acres.

These statistics indicate that lots of men will be walking lots of miles examining lots of spruce trees looking for lots of beetles. If all the miles of walking could be put end to end and pointed toward the moon it should make a good jumping-off place for the beetles.

ST. JOE REPORTS - "As the reconstruction of the present Marble Creek road nears completion, Foreman Jack Root has diverted contractor Sam Bellusci's two D-8's to new construction of approximately three miles of road on up Marble Creek toward Homestead Creek, from where Bruce Caldwell and Art Hall of Ohio Match Co. are building down the drainage on what we hope will soon be the same road. The two operations are yet about five miles apart, but the golden (mica) spike should be driven before too long. This road will replace the present 15 percent mica surface grade into Homestead Creek and its impending completion is causing considerable consternation in the beetle ranks."

INFESTED SPRUCE SALES - Infested and noninfested green and dead spruce sold in sales made since July 1952 to get infested spruce out of the woods totals 392 million board feet. This includes the spruce in old sales adjusted to obtain the removal of the beetle infested spruce. Sale contracts provide for the removal of most of this spruce in 1953 and 1954. Distribution by forests is as follows:

Cabinet	7 million	Kootenai	161 million
Clearwater	0 million	Lolo	23 million
Flathead	52 million	St. Joe	95 million
Kaniksu	54 million	Total	392 million

CAMELS - Mitchell reports that while traveling on spruce access road business, he left an unopened carton of Camels in his room at the Kalispell Hotel when he checked out. The prompt forwarding of his cigarettes by the hotel management has done a lot to restore his faith in the human race.

WYSSEN SKYLINE SYSTEM MAY LOG SPRUCE - Jacob Wyssen, Swiss logging engineer and inventor of a skyline system accompanied Art Bowman to Lightning Creek on the Kaniksu July 27 and 28. Some of the steep, forested slopes of this drainage, which would be difficult or impossible to log by any other method, proved interesting to Mr. Wyssen. He was anxious to try out his equipment where he could take out infested spruce.

BEETLES KILLED BY SPRAYING - Results of the June chemical control on Sullivan Creek on the Kootenai and Wellington Creek on the Kaniksu were examined by DeJarnette and Scott in mid-July. They observed that EDB (ethylene dibromide) appears to be an effective killer of spruce bark beetles when properly applied. The spray was applied to standing trees and effectively penetrated the bark to kill the beetles. Trees were sprayed to a height of 35 feet. Woodpeckers often remove the beetles above the sprayed section.

"FACTS ABOUT ENGELMANN SPRUCE", put out by the Western Pine Association, reports that this spruce has a wide range of uses, including flooring, ceiling, siding, fencing, sheathing, subflooring, studding, joists, planking, interior finish and panels, moldings and trim, and cabinet work. Its freedom from pitch, odor and taste makes it an excellent material for food containers; also, it is much used for boxes and crates. This spruce has properties that fits it for high quality products such as furniture, boats, patterns, airplanes, musical instruments, and other highly exacting uses. The wood is strong for its weight. It is reported to take paint well. It is popular with the woodworker because it works well, glues readily, takes a good finish, and stays put. It is one of the bluebloods among woods.

BEETLE KILLERS - The spruce bark beetle epidemic is a challenge to inventive minds. Here are some of the more notable suggestions for its control.

1. Produce the mating call of the female beetle artifically and lure unsuspecting males into a trap and doom.
2. Impregnate infested trees with a solution to make the beetles sterile.
3. Upper Joe Scientific Society suggests crossing woodpeckers with hootowls. The "hootpeckers" would work night and day and kill the beetles in half the time.
4. Use national advertising to promote beetle larvae as a new table delicacy. (If this becomes successful it might be necessary to reserve some spruce areas in beetle farms to meet the popular demand between epidemics.)

Can you top these? If so, send in your idea. Who knows, it may actually kill beetles.

CAN SHOTS MAKE SPRUCE BEETLE PROOF? - A recent Country Gentleman articles reports successful control of cattle grubs and screworms simply by "needling" a dose of a systemic insecticide into the animals. We recognize the vast difference between a steer and a spruce tree but it seems entirely possible that someone will someday inject something into the cambium layer of trees that will kill bark beetles or drive them away. This is not a new idea but it is still a promising field for research.

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